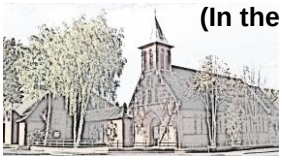
CHURCH OF OUR LADY IMMACULATE AND ST ANDREW

16 Nightingale Road, HITCHIN, SG5 1QS
(In the care of the Augustinians of the Assumption)



Newsletter No 2228

Mass Times
Saturday **6pm**
Sunday **8.30am, 10.30am, 5pm**
Monday – Saturday **10am**
Reconciliation Saturday **10.30am**
during Exposition. All Masses are livestreamed Livestream Mass

8th November- 14th November 2026 – 32nd Sunday O/T YrA

A Parish Prayer for Peace 2026

Lord, send us the gift of peace. Change the hearts of those who choose violence and wage war. Turn them away from persecution and lead them towards peace. Transform hatred into understanding, anger into compassion, and fear into hope. Through your love, heal what is broken. Fill us with your Spirit, so that with one voice, we may cry out together, throughout the world: Lord, send us the gift of peace. Amen.

Readings:
Wisdom 6:12-16, 1 Thess 4:13-18, Matthew: 25:1-13

Entrance Antiphon: Let my prayer come into your presence. Incline your ear to my cry for help, O Lord.

Psalm: For you my soul is thirsting, O Lord, my God

Ramblings ~

Waiting is the great spirituality of the 21st century. We wait for downloads, deliveries, replies and results. We become impatient if a webpage takes five seconds to load, yet we expect God to fit comfortably into our timetable.
In Jesus' story of the wedding feast, the surprise is not a late bride but a late bridegroom.
Ten women wait with lamps. Five bring extra oil. Five do not. All of them fall asleep.
Notice that the wise are not those who never get tired. The wise are those who prepare for tiredness.
A man once told me proudly, "I haven't missed Mass in thirty years." I asked, "And have you met God there?" He looked at me as though I hadn't heard the question.
Many of us have beautiful lamps: religious habits, good intentions, treasured memories of faith. But when darkness comes, when prayer feels dry, when God seems absent, when life disappoints, the flame flickers. We have polished the lamp and forgotten the oil.
The oil is not enthusiasm. Enthusiasm comes and goes. The oil is forgiving when you would rather resent; listening when you would rather talk; praying when nobody notices, and doing the right thing when nobody applauds.
I once saw a woman searching frantically for her phone while talking on it. We might laugh, but many people spend their lives searching for God while living every moment in God's presence.
When the bridegroom finally arrives, nobody can borrow another person's oil. Faith cannot be outsourced. Your spouse cannot pray for you. Your parish cannot love for you. Your parents' faith cannot sustain your lamp.
Then comes the cry: "He is here!" The question is not whether Christ will come. The question is whether anything will still be burning within us when he does.
So stop polishing the lamp. Fill it now before another notification arrives; before another excuse is invented; before the Bridegroom stands at the door smiling and asks: "Did you keep the flame alive?" ***~Fr Tom***

All are welcome for private prayer at any time in the church which is open 8.30am - 8pm

Diary Dates

Sun 8 November



Proceeds from this Sunday's coffee morning will go to support **KISS**. All are welcome, especially new parishioners.

Mon 9 November

9.30am Parent & Toddlers, Hall
6pm Beavers, Scout Hall

Tues 10 November

10.30am Tuesday Chat, Hall
2pm-4pm Craft Club, LCR
7pm Scouts, Scout Hall

Weds 11 November

10:30am Praise Group LCR
6pm Feed Up Warm Up, Scout Hall

Thurs 12 November

1pm Italian Club, Hall
7pm RCIA Session 4, LCR
6pm Brownies, Scout Hall

Fri 13 November

2pm-4pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall
2.30pm Scripture Study with Fr Andrew, Christopher House
6pm-7.30pm NEW Youth Group, Hall

Sat 14 November

9.30am-11.30am FHC Session 3, Hall
1-3pm Hitchin Pantry, Scout Hall

Prayer diary 🙏

Tuesday **11.30am Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
Wednesday **9.30am Rosary** Church
Thursday **6.30pm Meditation** Emmanuel Centre
6.30pm Adoration & Rosary Church
Friday **9.30am Rosary** Church
Saturday **10.30 Exposition & Reconciliation**

Many thanks to all those who supported Diapalante's recent coffee mornings. £160 was raised for our education centre in Senegal

Coffee mornings: A new rota for 2027 tea & coffee mornings will be drawn up shortly.

Baptism celebrations: We welcome Xanthi Alexiou & Rumi McColl into the Church community through the Sacrament of Baptism this week. Please keep them & their families in your prayers

In Memoriam Service, Sun 8th November, 3pm: An opportunity to pray for your loved ones who have died. During the service the names of those parishioners who have died in the past year since our last service will be read & a flower display created with a flower for each of those named. There is also an opportunity for people to light candles during the service. Refreshments are available in the hall afterwards

Parish Council Meeting, Mon 9th Nov, 7.30pm: Meeting in the Lower Committee Room.

Deceased Clergy Mass, Tues 10th November, 11am: A Mass for the deceased clergy of our Stevenage Deanery, at St Thomas More Chruch in Knebworth

Admissions Evening at Our Lady's School, Thurs 12th November, 6.30pm: For Reception children starting school in Sept 2027. Contact OLS website or admin@ourladys.hert.sch.uk for more details

Congratulations: Our Lady's School have recently received a wonderful OFSTED report, you can read about it here: https://www.ourladys.herts.sch.uk/93/ofsted

Youth Group, Fri 13th November, **6pm-7.30pm:** A new Youth Group (starting this week!!!) for those of secondary school age. Please contact LJ to complete a registration form. We are also seeking adult volunteers to help on an occasional basis (DBS provided)

Confirmation 2027: Young people in Year 9 or above, who would like to prepare for the *Sacrament of Confirmation*, are invited to download an Application Form from our website. Please send all completed forms to LJ by 10th November, as our programme begins on **15th November** this year

One World Live Simply Group AGM, Mon 16th November, 4pm: The AGM will take place in the Lower Committee Room. Father Roger has kindly agreed to give a talk on the Church in the Democratic Republic of Congo. Attractive refreshments will be served. All are welcome

Parish Celebrations, Sat 21st November 2026, 12:30pm: The unveiling of a Blue Plaque on the old church wall to commemorate the artist Theodore Kern, whose artwork is shown in our church. Please come along to support the event. Refreshments in the Hall afterwards

Parish Celebrations, Sun 22nd November 2026, 10.30am Mass: Celebrating the Centenary of the Augustinians of the Assumption in Hitchin (1926-2026). Bishop Paul & other clergy will be attending 10.30am Mass & there will be a celebratory lunch in the hall immediately afterwards.
On the same day Father Roger Kasereka will be oficially inducted as Parish Priest and will celebrate the end of his Silver Jubilee year of priesthood.
Please sign the notice in the porch if you are planning to come to the reception after Mass on this day to give us an indication of numbers for catering purposes. Please, also indicate if you can help to set up, help during the lunch or help to clear up

Sick and Retired Priests'Fund: The second collection next week will be for the sick and retired priests of our diocese. Most priests offer their resignation at 75, but many continue to serve in our schools,hospitals, hospices & parishes.

Need for prayer? Contact *Mary* on *07759195487* with your request



Prayers for our intercession: *We pray for people suffering from illness especially:* Ena Chapman, Phil Drury, Rachel Drury, Harriet Parry, Rogan Hodgeson, Pauline Lanaway, the Fennell families, Stella Paterson, Antoinette Fernandes, Vincent Turner, Paul O'Reilly, Pauline Phillips, Steph Dias, Glennice Burlison, Evie Roberts, Ken Buck, Elizabeth Donnelly, Jim Brookes and the Sheldon family.

We pray for those whose anniversary is about now: Paul Norris, Eva Woods, Annie Hickmott, Nicolo Miceli, Roy Pond, Betty Leeming, Eddie McCrudden, Paul Hartnack, Peter Taswse, Teresa Olney, Erika Kirk, Olive O'Sullivan, Neil McDonald & Liberale Cadona **If you have been bereaved and would like to talk with a member of our Bereavement visitors please ring 01462 459 126**

Assumption

Parish Tel no: 01462 459126	**Website**: https://parish.rcdow.org.uk/hitchin
Parish Safeguarding Rep:	Tomasz Pernak hitchinsg3@safeguardrcdow.org.uk
Parish Priest	Fr Roger Kasereka rogerkaserekasyayipuma@rcdow.org.uk 07337 451930
Assistant Priest	Fr Romaric Ablouka romaricablouka@rcdow.org.uk 07337 087192
Retired Priest	Fr Tom O'Brien 07547 171570
Sacramental Co-ordinator	L J Ross ljross@rcdow.org.uk press 3
Parish Administrator	*Position currently vacant* press 2

Caring for our brother priests in their senior years, or at a time of illness, is a part of the mission of our diocese. Supporting this means helping to cover essential costs, giving peace of mind that in the event of an emergency, their needs will be met. Donation envelopes are at the back of the church today. Please, take one home, & bring it back next weekend with your donation. You can make a one off donation or you can set up a regular gift and become a **Patron** by completing section 4 on the envelope form. You can also donate online at **rcdow.org.uk /SRP** – or scan the QR code with a phone camera to give on line. Please continue to pray for the wellbeing of all of our clergy : active, retired, and ill. Thank you.

Chaplaincies at Our Lady's:
Fr Tom: Padre Pio Group, Caritas, Our Lady's School, Ecumenical Prayer Group, Feed Up Warm Up
Fr Romaric: Youth Ministry, Scouts, Altar Servers, Children's Ministry, Garden Group, Church Cleaning Group, Maintenace Group
Fr Roger: Catechesis (sacramental), Master of Ceremony, Choir, Readers, Eucharistic Ministry, Divine Mercy, Meditation Group, Pantry
Fr Andrew: Scripture Study

Please can each group arrange to meet with its chaplain in order to outline an action plan/different activities for this new pastoral year 2026-2027.
The ministry to the sick & housebound is carried out by each of the priests.

Duke of Edinburgh Award: We have many volunteering opportunies here in the parish. If you are working towards your Bronze/Silver/Gold Award & are looking for a placement, please contact LJ
Faith in Action Award: We are debuting this new award in association with Caritas Westminster from January 2027. Similar to the DofE award, young people in Years 9-11 are invited to sign up & volunteer in their local parishes. We will be running this alongside our Youth Group evenings so come along to find out more!

Hitchin Pantry: Please continue to support the Pantry. Donations are always needed (packets/tins/etc.) Please also support their Christmas Toy appeal by donating (new) toys or cash donations to go towards this project. Many thanks.

Churches Together in Hitchin:
Hitchin Mosque Open Day, Sat 14 Nov, 1.30pm-3pm: Mosque at 28 Florence Street are inviting members of Christian churches to join in discussions & exchange future plans at their annual open day.
St Mary's Church, Sun 15 Nov, 6pm: Rev Chris Bunce is leaving to become Archdeacon of Norfolk, his final service is this Choral Evensong - all churches welcome.
Phase Coffee Morning, Sat 21 Nov, 10am-12.30pm: at Christchurch. Cakes, books, gifts, cards, Chapel Preserves and bacon butties! All welcome. PHASE annual update/ Churches Together AGM will be on Weds 25 Nov, 7.30pm.